

PROPOSED PARAGRAPHS ON NEED FOR TRANSMISSION

To be inserted as last paragraphs of Preface

The requirement for new transmission facilities to meet California energy goals will be influenced by, among other things, future statewide electricity consumption and the deployment of generation technologies which do not require transmission, such as photovoltaic (PV) generation in urban areas. For purposes of transmission planning, RETI uses projections of future electric energy consumption adopted by the California Energy Commission, and assumptions about deployment of new technologies as described in Sections 3.8 and 6.4 of this report. In future years these projections will be reassessed and transmission plans amended as appropriate.

California is moving assertively to deploy energy efficiency and clean distributed generating technologies, including PV in urban areas. But even optimistic assumptions about implementation of these technologies do not materially reduce the need for large-scale renewable generation.¹ Abandoning transmission planning for renewables in favor of much heavier reliance on energy efficiency and distributed generation greatly increases the risk of not being able to meet state policy goals by 2020. The RETI Stakeholder Steering Committee continues to believe that the projections used in this report provide a prudent basis for long-range transmission plans.

¹ Some comments received on the draft report claim projections used by RETI overstate the requirement for new transmission facilities.